

# JON ERPENBACH

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## STATE SENATOR

January 24, 2018

Governor Scott Walker  
State Capitol, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, East Wing  
*Hand-delivered*

Dear Governor Walker:


I am happy to hear that you have finally recognized Wisconsin Democrats have ideas that are good not just for Democrats, but for the entire state of Wisconsin. However, I must take this opportunity to make sure you understand the difference between the protections contained in the Affordable Care Act and the bills I have authored, and the legislation you are parading as part of your election year enlightenment.

Representative Riemer and I authored Senate Bill 265 and Assembly Bill 363 which would codify into Wisconsin law the ground-breaking prohibitions against insurance companies denying coverage and preventing predatory pricing based on a person's pre-existing conditions. As you well know, these protections are current federal law, part of President Obama's Affordable Care Act.

What you have proposed advancing, was part of a late-night gimmick hatched by Assembly Republicans who realized how popular these provisions of the Affordable Care Act are with the people of Wisconsin, but still put their own re-election campaigns and conservative credentials before their constituents. Now, you choose not only to follow their lead, but to mislead the people of Wisconsin into thinking they don't have to worry about the repeal of the Affordable Care Act because Wisconsin law will protect them.

The truth is that your proposal provides fewer protections for people than the existing federal law. Your plan allows health insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing conditions as much as they want, punishes those who have lapses in coverage and sends us back to the days of "high-risk" pools that were largely unaffordable.

I look forward to advancing legislation that directly codifies the federal protections for people with pre-existing conditions into Wisconsin law, Senate Bill 264 and Assembly Bill 363. The difference between our priorities and yours are quite clear.

Sincerely,  
  
JON ERPENBACH  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> District